

--- 1/20th Pound - "Series of 1886" - 3rd BABN Contract ( 1878-1886 ) ---

--- *lithographed* in BLUE on unwatermarked medium wove paper - 21 x 28 mm ---

--- perforated 12 - scanned at 200% scale - inscribed [ THREE POUNDS / PER M OR / UNDER ] ---

In 1885, the tax on "foreign leaf" cigarettes, in packages of 1/20th pound or more, was 20¢ per pound, while "domestic leaf" cigarettes were taxed at 5¢ per pound. The 1/20th pound package contained 20 cigarettes.

The catalogue lists **RC-101** as printed in 1888, and subsequent to **RC-92**. I feel that this is incorrect. They are inscribed "**THREE POUNDS / PER M OR / UNDER**" (which logically follows from the "Series of 1880" Type III strip, which was inscribed with "**NOT MORE THAN 1/20 lb**"). I think that **RC-101(L)** and **RC-101** are from 1886, and were recorded by John McKay under the **3rd BABN Contract** - see below:

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John McKay records that 217,752 *lithographed* copies of the "1-20, Blue, Square, Cigarettes" were 'delivered' under the **3rd BABN Contract** ( 1878-1886 ). Apparently these *lithographed* copies were the scarce **RC-101(L)**.

John McKay records that 395,525 *recess printed* copies of the "1-20, Blue, Square, Cigarettes" were 'delivered' under the **3rd BABN Contract** ( 1878-1886 ). Apparently *recess printed* copies of **RC-101**.

John McKay further records that 562,250 *recess printed* copies of this "1-20, Blue, Square, Cigarettes" were 'delivered' under the **4th BABN Contract** ( 1886-1892 ), and that another 100,000 *recess printed* copies of "1/20th Blue Cigarettes" were 'delivered' from the hand press under the **5th BABN Contract** ( 1892-1897 ).

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★**RC-101** - 1/20th pound, blue, perf 12, *recess printed* on *unwatermarked* medium wove

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Chris and Fritz have been questioning whether **RC-101** is lithographed or recess printed. In spite of what I said above, this stamp feels, at least to me, to have been recess printed. I wonder if these stamps do not exist in both formats. The early copies printed by lithography, and the later copies recess printed, when Ottawa began to question the details of the BABN contract.

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File path is [ c:\CR - STAMPS\RC\_STAMPS\1886\1-20th blue ],  
In MS Word 2007 for Windows 7,  
Formatted for a HP CP 1525 Laser Jet,  
December 8th 2013, JBH